

## EPA to Send Water to Dimock Households

By [Susan Phillips](#)

The U.S. Envi-ron-men-tal Pro-tec-tion Agency will send clean water to res-i-dents of the Susque-hanna County com-mu-nity where nat-ural gas drilling has con-t-a-m-i-nated water sup-plies. About a dozen fam-i-lies in [Dimock, Pa.](#) have a law-suit pend-ing against [Cabot Oil and Gas](#). The EPA says four of those fam-i-lies will receive fresh water deliv-er-ies. Three years ago, res-i-dents began to notice changes to their water, and were able to set their taps on fire. State reg-u-la-tors blamed Cabot for faulty well con-struc-tion and ordered the com-pany to sup-ply clean water. But in Novem-ber, 2011 the state [Depart-ment of Envi-ron-men-tal Pro-tec-tion](#) gave Cabot the green light to halt water shipments.

Res-i-dents have since been rely-ing on dona-tions. Sev-eral weeks ago, regional EPA offi-cials con-tacted res-i-dents to tell them the fed-eral gov-ern-ment would start sup-ply-ing water. But then a day later, that deci-sion was reversed. DEP chief Michael Krancer has crit-i-cized EPA's role in Dimock, writ-ing in a let-ter to EPA Admin-is-tra-tor Lisa Jack-son that the EPA's under-stand-ing of the issue was "rudimentary."

Last week, [EPA Admin-is-tra-tor Lisa Jack-son told State Impact Penn-syl-va-nia](#) that some fed-eral laws pre-vent the Agency from pro-vid-ing relief. A press release issued today by EPA region 3 says they will begin their own test-ing of the well water for 60 Dimock house-holds. In the mean-time, EPA will sup-ply fresh water to four families.

"EPA is work-ing dili-gently to under-stand the sit-u-a-tion in Dimock and address res-i-dents' con-cerns," said EPA Regional Admin-is-tra-tor Shawn M. Garvin. "We believe that the infor-ma-tion pro-vided to us by the res-i-dents deserves fur-ther review, and con-duct-ing our own sam-pling will help us fill infor-ma-tion gaps. Our actions will be based on the sci-ence and the law and we will work to help get a more com-plete pic-ture of water qual-ity for these homes in Dimock."

EPA offi-cials say it could take up to three weeks to com-plete test-ing on the wells, with results avail-able in about 5 weeks. Cur-rent data from four homes indi-cates the con-t-a-m-i-na-tion poses health con-cerns. The EPA says data on the other wells do not show a need for fresh water deliv-er-ies, but the Agency says fur-ther test-ing is warranted.

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